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Choices for Care in Illinois

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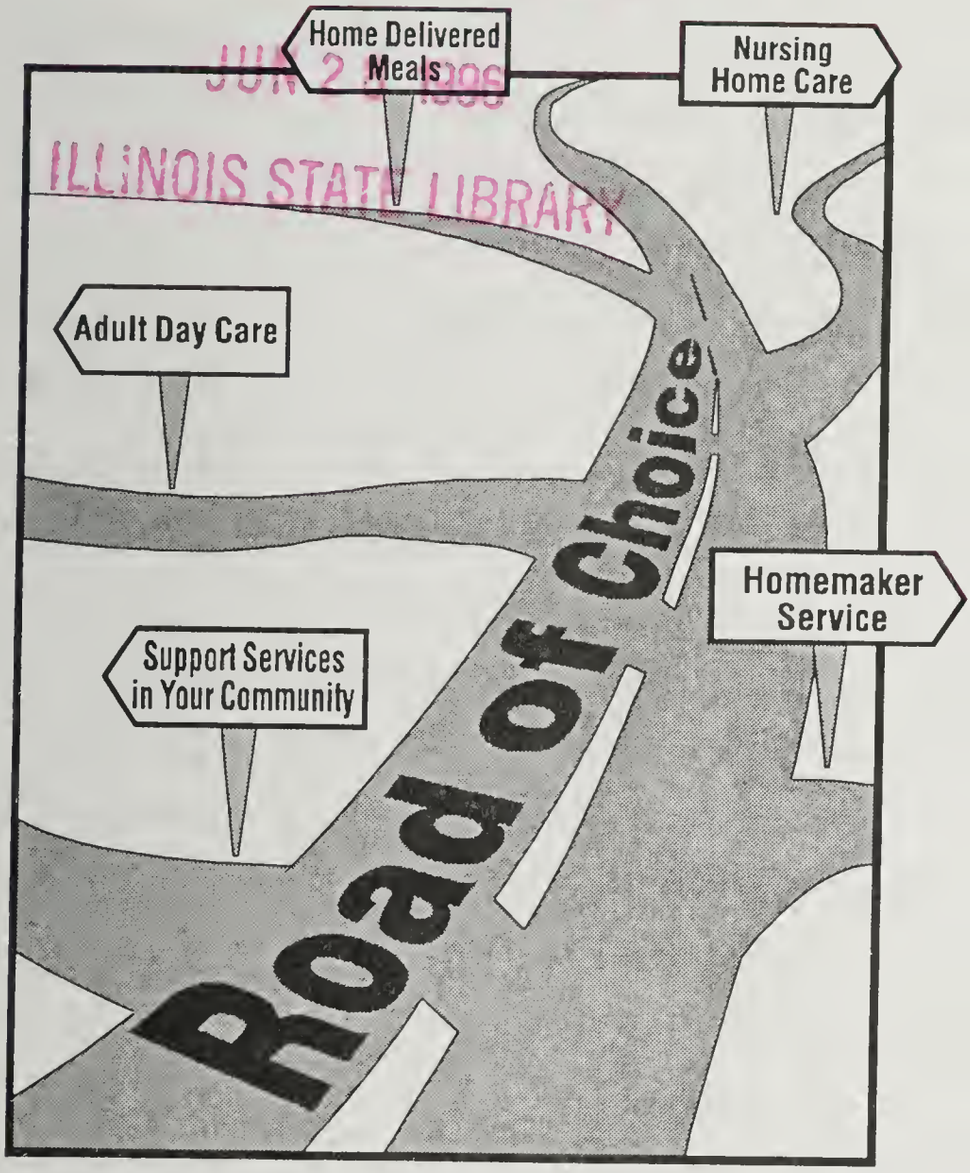

A program that helps families discover their options for long term care

Illinois Department on Aging

Jim Edgar
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Choices for Care in Illinois

Making decisions about long term care can be overwhelming for you and your loved ones. Through the *Choices for Care Program*, a trained professional can provide a helping hand at no cost to you. Case managers in your community will provide a free consultation that includes an assessment of your needs, a review of service options and costs, and assistance in developing your plan for care.

The *Choices for Care Program* gives you the opportunity to choose services that are provided by a homemaker or personal assistant, or other services such as home-delivered meals, electronic home response, adult day care and care provided in a nursing facility. The case manager can help you determine which services are appropriate, available and affordable to you.

Purpose

- ✔ Provide you and your family members with choices for long term care services.
- ✔ Provide early counseling about available services.
- ✔ Provide you with information about eligibility criteria and costs for home and community based services, as well as general information on nursing facility care.

Who will participate in *Choices for Care?*

Anyone age 18 or over who is seeking long term care services.

Who will come talk to me about my choices?

Experienced case managers will meet and talk with you and your family. These professionals work at state or local agencies and have been trained by the Illinois Department on Aging and the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services. They have

experience arranging services to help people remain in their homes, and they also have general information on nursing home care.

What does the program involve?

Case managers will ask you questions about your ability to perform certain tasks, such as cleaning, shopping, preparing meals and managing medications. Your ability to get around your home will also be discussed. This information will help the case manager identify your needs. You can then choose services that are appropriate and affordable.

When will a case manager come talk to me?

If you are hospitalized and need some assistance when you are discharged, a health care professional will talk with you about your options before you leave the hospital. Or, if you are at home, a trained professional will

come visit you there. You'll find out about available choices for long term care, including services that can be provided in your own home.

Why is *Choices for Care* important to me?

You and your family members may not be aware of services available to you in your home, and may think that going to a nursing home is the only choice. The consultation with a case manager will provide you with information about available and appropriate services that will meet your specific needs.

Can I still decide to go to a nursing facility?

Yes, you can still go to a nursing facility if that is the service you choose. The consultation is designed to give you more information about your choices, but the final decision about the services you will receive is yours to make.

What about the cost?

Choices for Care provides a free consultation to assist you and your family members in learning about your options for care. Costs for actual services will vary. Depending upon your income and assets, you may be eligible for state or federal assistance to pay for your services.

Who do I call?

To learn more about *Choices for Care*, call the Illinois Department on Aging toll-free at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY), or the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services at 1-800-ASK-DORS (voice or TTY). If you have questions about Medicaid, please call the Illinois Department of Public Aid at 1-800-252-8635.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY).

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